

Applicants hereby elect the invention as defined by Group II for examination. As such, Applicants request examination of claims 1-14, 18-20, 29 and 36-42. Claims 14, 18-20 and 29 were previously indicated as being part of Group II in the restriction of the claims issued on December 19, 2000.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact MaryAnne Armstrong, PhD (Reg. No. No. 40,069) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By *mpa armstrong*
Gerald M. Murphy, Jr., #28,977

MaryAnne Armstrong, PhD #40,069

GMM/MAA
0147-0189P

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000